

NOT SO MUCH A WRESTLING NEWSLETTER AS A DESPERATE CRY FOR HELP, ITS...

CHAIRSHOTS

ISSUE #25

JULY 7, 1994

\$1.00

...THE NEXT GENERATION

THE MOST FEARED
SUBMISSION HOLD
OF ALL TIME,
THE ABBY FLAP!





SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

Over the course of my 8-plus years in the newsletter world, some of you may know that I've been an active tape trader. Like most of you who have been active in this field, I've had my share of experiences-good & bad. Unfortunately, as I was telling someone the other night, today's tape trader seems to be having more bad than good. Why? Probably because there are so many more traders out there than ever before, and consequently, more people who are looking to flat out rip you off. When I first began trading there were probably about 25 or so people who were major traders and so the chances of getting ripped were far less because if you jerked someone around, word got around fast. The point is that today the words to live by are: Let the buyer beware. If someone tells you that they have a 1st generation 1980 Georgia tape, get suspicious and check the person's reputation.

Speaking of people of dubious reputation (now that was a segue!), I have to relate a great story of sleazy dealings in another area of tape trading. Some of you may know that I am also active in trading football games (P.O. Box 16814 Plantation, Fla 33318-send a S.A.S.E for a copy of my 250 or so college and pro games-That by the way is the official "Ron Lemieux Shameless Plug of the Month") Well, just so any of you who have been the victim to a wrestling rip off don't feel too lonely, get a load of what I just got in the mail. There's a guy named Mike Pikula, who's pretty much the guy who has just about everything you could ever want in football, basketball, boxing, etc who recently sent out a letter discussing the O.J. Simpson situation. The 1st paragraph of this letter just gushes praise for the Juice calling him, among other things, "tragic", "gifted", "friendly & outgoing" and finally, a "role model". He then mentions two of Simpson's most famous college and pro games-WHICH HE HAPPENS TO HAVE FOR SALE! Hey, what an amazing coincidence, huh? Yes, folks, nothing like profiteering off of the old double homicide. But wait, it gets better! The guy then claims in his letter that the reason he's offering the two games is because "it will preserve the 'O.J. Simpson' that we all know and loved". And if he happens to make a few bucks off of it, so much the better. He then states "I would advise everyone to obtain these games because I will delete them if/when he is convicted for murder". I know that the rest of you take comfort, as I do, in knowing that he doesn't want to profit off of a convicted murderer, just an accused one. He then clears up any questions you might have had as to his opinion of the case by stating, "In other words, these games are available for a limited time only." Well, I guess that old guilty verdict came in without me knowing about it! This guy seems to have already decided, hasn't he? By the way, I should mention that the letter lists the games for sale, not for trade. I mean, hey! How long can that case stay hot, right? Anyway, it just goes to show you that there are some pretty warped people out there.

This whole thing reminded me of a pretty funny story about tape trading that happened about 4 or 5 years ago. I'll be nice and protect the identity of one of the guys, who I think has disappeared anyway. I'm talking with Chris Zavisa one night on the phone and were trying to swing a trade. I had some tape that he really wanted and Chris was trying to figure out what he could send me in return. He tells me that he has this tape-very rare stuff, but that I couldn't dub it for anyone, and that he would have to (get a load of this!) get permission from the guy who gave it to him before he could dub it for me. I'm thinking this is sort of strange, but whatever. A few days later, Chris calls me back and says that the other guy had given his okay and that he'd be sending me the tape. The tape sounded very interesting supposedly it was bootleg stuff from the Kiel Auditorium from the late 70's with Jack Brisco, the Funks, Harley Race, Ted Dibiase, etc., so I was pretty psyched about getting it. Well, I get the tape, and before I even have a chance to watch it, the next day I get a letter from the other guy. I really wished I had saved it, because it was probably one of the most unintentionally funny things that I've ever seen in all the years I've been around the newsletters. This guy, who obviously had way, way too much time on his hands, had dictated this letter wherein he basically told me that I was now part of this sacred trust and that the tape that had been given to me was part of wrestling's legacy and heritage and that I should realize and respect what it was that I had in my possession, blah, blah, blah. I felt like friggin' Sir Lancelot at the Roundtable! Anyway, the funniest thing was that the tape ended up being pretty much a piece of junk, which made his letter even funnier! The matches were classics, but they were shot on 8mm film and the person filming it shook more than a guy on his first date with the prom queen. Which, by the way, is not to criticize Zavisa, who seemed like a nice guy (although he had and still has that Torch stigma hanging over his head like a black cloud).

Next issue I'll be reporting on assignment for Chairshots-as Barry "My wife and I were supposed to be getting divorced, but I moved back in with her, and I don't want to make her mad by going to the P.P.V., since our anniversary is the day before, even though we're still maybe getting divorced, even though my personal life is so confusing that even I, much less people that write for me can figure it out" Rose has sent me to cover the mega-event. Our coverage will consist of rating the matches-NOT! I'll give you what you really want! Grading the tit bars, reporting on who gets drunk faster than anyone else, who puked on their shoes, and who woke up naked poolside the next morning! You know, the good stuff,.....

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOTSPOTS

BY TIM WHITEHEAD

Welcome to the latest edition of Smoky Mountain Hotspots, the favorite wrestling column of the DKLA (as with most ideologues, simply reverse what they say and you'll find out what they really mean!). Thus, how apropos (not to mention ironic, moronic, and catatonic) that the DKLA's letter accusing me of shilling for SMW should arrive just as I'm preparing to write a column touching on a variety of subjects other than SMW!

Have any of you out there received a sample copy of a sheet called the Wrestling Tribune? I received one a couple of weeks ago, and accompanying it was a letter from the editor, some guy I've never heard of named Eric M. Chmiel of Buffalo, New York. Anyway, he blasted the Apter mags as phony (that part was true at least) and asserted that to get the real inside scoop one must subscribe to the Wrestling Tribune for \$1.50 per weekly issue. Page seven of the newsletter was a special "Editor's Corner" in which potential new subscribers are subjected to such lines as the following: "There have been a lot of publications dealing with pro wrestling, some of them quite widely read, but there has never been anything quite like what you're looking at right now." In reference to insider info, the editor writes, "Simply put, Wrestling Tribune is the only place you can get information like this." Then, after listing the real names of a couple of wrestlers, he declares that "no other wrestling publication would dare to print information like this." He then proceeds to brag about his large number of contacts inside the business and rambles on about how the top executives in the major wrestling promotions wish he would go away, so concerned are they that he is revealing their top secret plans. Now I have no problem with a sheet editor engaging in a little hyperbole. That sort of goes with the territory. But in this case the sheet in question is nearly entirely copied from the most recent editions of the Observer and Torch! Literally, the entire sheet is little more than rehashed Observer/Torch material, slightly reworded to avoid outright copyright infringement. The sample issue I received even reprinted a typographical error that occurred in an SMW report I provided to the Torch the previous week! Obviously all the "workers" in wrestling aren't confined to the rings or the front offices!

I've been informed that Tammy Fytch is extremely popular (to put it in delicate terms) with Japanese males who get SMW tapes, proving once again that the Japanese have a great understanding of this sport. Not that the Japanese have any shortage of lovely ladies of their own. As I type this, I'm looking across the room at the 1994 All Japan Women calendar which is proudly displaying Miss July Takako Inoue. What a babe!

Speaking of All Japan Women, I recently received a copy of Chigusa Nagayo's 1993 motion picture release called "Ring Ring Ring". It runs about 90 minutes and stars Chigusa as herself. Supposedly the movie is based on Chigusa's life, though obviously quite a bit of the film is fictitious. On the surface it appears to be pretty much a "B" movie, though since the film is in Japanese it's difficult to critique it. I have no idea what the political beliefs of the actors & actresses, producer, director, writer, cameraman, stunt coordinator, or anyone else associated with the film are. In fact, I don't care what their political views are. I'm just mentioning this because increasingly we're being asked to judge someone's talents as a booker, commentator, etc. based on the political views of the individual in question. The stupidity of this criterion is appalling. But then, most stupidity is!

To touch briefly on SMW, the Kendo character just isn't getting over, and two Kendos aren't better than one! And where is Darryl Van Horne? The guy's a riot! Bring him back and phase out Kendo. FanWeek is now only a month away, so I hope to see many of you here (yes, even DKLA members - all two of them!)

See ya next ishthhhhhhhhh!

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

by Dave Scherer

Welcome to another wild and woolly edition of Foreign Affairs, the column that is often clueless, but never boring. . . The latest Clash pointed a lot of things out to me. WCW sucks. Bad. Rick Flair has officially become a parody of himself in the ring. And as a booker, he makes a good wrestler. I watched the show with my wife, who is not much of a wrestling fan. She predicted the entire Hogan\Flair\Sting\Sherri scenario. Flair, as booker, did nothing, zip, zero, nada in any way that was creative or innovative. This was what was supposed to be the most important angle that WCW has run in years, given the financial investment that they have made in Hogan, and after watching it I could not help but wonder what Flair thought was so great in any of the above events that would make regular WCW fans, who are mostly just the NWA hardcores that the promotion has not been able to kill yet (in spite of seemingly trying very hard), want to buy a match where most figure their hero (Flair) will lose the title to a man that they view as the anti Christ and a walking testament to what they hate about the wrestling business and what it has become. And while I question them rushing the whole match to begin with, which most hardcores said was Titan's big mistake when they had this dream feud in their control, I can understand why they did it, as they were too stupid to make Hogan sign for longer than 6 months. That said, and accepting that they had to rush the whole feud, couldn't Flair come up with something less obvious than what he did? In addition to being stale as a wrestler, he's stale as a booker too, and he just got that job. . . The Clash described in a word: Yawn. Sure, some of the wrestling was fair to good, but where is the innovation? Where is breaking of, if not new, different ground? How about Lame Gene Jokerlund giving away results in promos before the match? How about the fans booing Hogan during his interview, and his "deer-in-the-headlights" reaction to it? I once broke the chops of the Torch (I know that shocks everyone) for over analyzing how to fix WCW. My suggestion? Don't. Let them die. They suck. I hate them. . . I had to miss the 6\24 ECW at the Arena\Bingo Parlor, which also in the Summer acts as a greenhouse, due to a family commitment. My loss. My pals said that Sabu vs Cactus and The Public Enemies vs the Funks were both fabulous. I'll be at the Arena 7\16 and at the show on the Wildwood, NJ boardwalk on 7\17 and will fill you in on those shows for sure. . . I heard, though I haven't seen it yet, that Mike Lano's new sheet has major potential and is definitely worth a glance. I heard the Gary Albright even challenged the Guru of Graps, Dave Meltzer, to a match. Hmmm, Gary, pal, buddy, don't you think you're kind of being a dick here? I bet Dave could kick your ass in words typed per minute. And don't challenge me either dude. I'm from the East Coast. I cheat. . . I watched the hair match between Konan and Jake Roberts. It was about what I'd expect from Jake, which isn't much. It was comical to watch the enormous Warlord do the wimpiest attempts at chairshots I have ever seen as Roberts' second. Boy does Jake look stupid bald. I liked how my pal Tim Whitehead said that he'd shave his head for \$20,000. I agree with him. I too would shave Tim bald for 20 G's. . . Anybody catch the elbow that the Brazilian slug nailed Tab Ramos with in the World Cup? Inoki should sign him up. And to Brazil, congrats. And while on the World Cup, I am damn glad that I don't live in a country where a guy gets killed for mistake he made during a soccer game. Now, if only I didn't live in a place where a childhood sports hero wasn't accused of brutally killing his ex-wife. . . King of The Ring? What a waste of 25 bucks, for those who bought it. . . Saw the first few New Japan TV shows during the Super Junior tourney. They predominantly showed the Michinoku Pro guys, and showed them doing well. It's fresh twists like those that make me enjoy wrestling Mr. Flair. . . The big Misawa vs Kawada Triple Crown match was great, as expected. . . Tonya Harding Wrestling Manager and American Masturbator, errr Gladiator. Another figure skater follows in the eloquent, ladylike steps of Peggy Fleming. . . I saw the first of the matches from the past that Titan is showing on All American. I assume that they are doing so to show how bad the "Old Generation" was and how good the "New (Old) Generation" is, but all of the feedback I have seen has had the opposite affect. It's really funny how at a time when Titan is at their lowest, WCW still can't make up any ground on them. I saw an AP report that listed the Clash at 1.9, on a show where WCW was trying get over their most expensive venture ever, and it finished behind an average RAW that drew a 2.0. I'd hate to be in Eric Bischoff shoes, though that is always true as if I were in his shoes, I would quickly become ill from the taste of shit on my tongue and it's smell on my nose. Whatta way to keep a job. . .

Draining the Talent Bank

Jeffrey Cohen

Every wrestling organization has its main event performers and its exceptional workers. Sometimes the two facets merge seamlessly. Other times, they intercept at key junctures. Rarely do they never meet. Now is the the best and worst of times for both the WWF and WCW in these respects.

WCW gets no respect. They pull off back-to-back critically acclaimed PPV events, and yet hardcores sniff, "Now they're just going to give us Hulk Hogan main events for the next six months, just when we thought we were through with the bald buffoon." Meanwhile, Vince runs a subpar *WrestleMania* which is saved by two matches, and everyone raves.

Well, not this independent reporter. After *King of the Ring*, Titan's deficiencies become glaringly apparent. Who does Vince have in his main events? Bret Hart, arguably one of the finest ring technicians. He can brawl, he throws in some highspots, and he sells among the best out there. Lex Luger missed *KOTR*. But he is generally stiff, refuses to go airborne, and his selling and comebacks get thumbs down from Siskel and Ebert. Yokozuna? Please. The Undertaker? Doesn't sell, rarely comes off his feet, and talk about stiff - Callaway plays a dead guy.

Shawn Michaels could main event in just about any promotion in the world. He's proven he's one of the best, and from his recent demeanor and conditions dictated to McMahon, he knows it. He's accompanying Diesel to ring-side these days. What does that say? Shouldn't it be the other way around?

But for the June PPV, Vince decided to go with a golden oldie for his main event - Jerry "the Snail" Lawler versus Roddy "Remember the 80s" Piper. What a laugh it was to hear Monsoon and Savage lauding the "New Generation of the WWF," denigrating the Hogan/WCW alliance. When Lawler and Piper hit the ring and began moving in super-slo-mo, they clammed up. For a group that can push WCW flops like Razor Ramon and Diesel into them into credible PPV main eventers, Vince is reluctant to allow clean baby-face defeats. Diesel victorious by DQ? Razor knocked out by stale Jim Neidhart? Horrible stuff.

WCW puts Flair/Steamboat and Flair/Windham on its last two shows and everyone howls about repeating past glories and trying to ride a ghost. Neither match was below three stars in anyone's notebook. Sting and Vader fight for the fourth (or fifth) time on PPV, and an average encounter between the two is better than any match from *KOTR*. Hogan jumping ship gives Bishoff and company some interesting matchups to play with - Hogan/Flair to start with, then Hogan/Vader, Hogan/Perfect, and capping the year with Hogan/Sting. Does anyone decry that three out of four of those pairings will be godawful? Flair had 2 1/2 star matches with Junkyard Dog. I saw the two Madison Square Garden Flair/Hogan matches on tape, and gave each three stars. On PPV, they should both be jacked up to give the performances of their lives. Especially Hogan, who is expected to carry the promotion on his back through December (and feels he has something to prove after his disappointing last WWF run).

Vader won *Wrestler of the Year* honors because he could carry any opponent. Hogan wants this match to prove he can still face any big man in the business. If they

want to, this could be a killer of a gimmick match (so Hogan can go over). Perfect never had his one-on-one PPV with Hogan either, but with Hennig's fluky medical condition, I reserve judgment on this one. Finally, Hogan/Sting. The Stinger needs a big, big win. His feuds with Rick Rude and Vader got old after the third or fourth time around the horn. He won't be paired off with Hogan for more than one match, but that is all it would take to cement him as the hottest performer in WCW going into 1995. And Bishoff and Flair could use the next six months to re-establish some credible main event heels for him to fight next year. So don't shrug off the Hulkster. I'll bet Flair and Perfect will be putting him over, he'll draw with Vader, and do the job for Sting and go out with his arm raised in equality with his fellow Venice Beach denizen.

How does this tie into my lead? Hogan was the top draw in the WWF for the 80s, and yet he was far from their best performer. You would think he would need spectacular opponents to draw, but who did he do best against? Andre the Giant, Big John Studd, and King Kong Bundy. Size freaks who couldn't work more than a lick. Yet reverse the circumstances. When Ric Flair was put in with El Gigante, the feud failed and the matches didn't draw. A double standard? Sure. But consider the performers and what their strengths were.

"Who is Vince bringing in next? An evil Undertaker... King Kong Bundy... Maxx Payne. Pathetic. Give me WCW anytime."

Vince took his best workers and practically buried them at *KOTR*. 1-2-3 Kid didn't really need to get thwacked by Jeff Jarrett after his match in order to rebuild the heat on the Memphis middleweight. Was it done to make the loss to Owen look "acceptable"? If so, it achieved the opposite effect. What could have been the best, most-anticipated bout on the card was turned into a four-minute disgrace. I was expecting this to be the match that saved the card, and instead it was an "ab--tion." Letting these two go at it full-blast might have exposed the rest of the crew as weak pretenders, but would also have tested the mettle of every overt hardcore. Also, even after the screwjob over Ramon, Hart would have been seen by the crowd as a still-worthy "King" due to his struggles getting there. Instead, he came off as a jobber who beat Tatanka on a clever fluke, 1-2-3 Kid after Jeff Jarrett pounded him, and Razor only with Neidhart's interference. This is a main eventer? The talent is there, but the booking wasn't.

Who is Vince bringing in next? An evil Undertaker? The return of King Kong Bundy (replacing the already-departed Earthquake). In the wings... a revamped Maxx Payne. Pathetic. Give me WCW anytime.

TURNBUCKLE NOTES: I don't mean to sound like I'm eager to see six months of Hulkamania, but honestly, what were WCW's options at this point? Who can Sting fight as the top man?... For a company slow to re-sign Brian Pillman, his new push is equally slow to develop. But then again, when wasn't it unless tagged with *wunderkind* Austin?... My next live show should be AAA at Paramount. When they get here... in 1995 or thereabouts.

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX

10117 W. OAKLAND PARK BLVD., #341, SUNRISE, FL 33351



DKLA HEADQUARTERS
WHEREVER WE DAMN WELL PLEASE

Dear Tim Whitehead,

We here at DKLA headquarters have left you and your harmless little column/drivel alone, until now. Your steadfast support of Bob "Wooden Post" Caudle has worn thin with us, Whitehead. Caudle is a wretched announcer. There is nothing awesome about the man at all. He mispronounces names, he's boring and, without the help of Dutch Mantell, he offers absolutely nothing to the show. Expressions??!! Well, Timothy, if expressions make the man then Steve Regal should be world champ and John Tatum would be the #1 contender. Stop being such a SMW mark, Whitehead. Not everything and everyone who works for them is God. Besides, Caudle works for Jesse "Way past Senility" Helms. Therefore he needs to be flogged until he proclaims the virtues of liberalism. Wise up, T.W., or pay the consequences of loss of free speech, creativity and individualism. The DKLA: We don't care about you. FUCK YOU!

K. Flouride
DKLA HEADQUARTERS

BOB BARNETT

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June 28, 1994

Dear Barry,

You want letters.....
The reasons I haven't written in awhile is because U.S. wrestling sucks right now, (except for Sabu, Jack, and some ECW), and I thought I'd hear from you after I sent the Eddie Gilbert to your NY address.

I love the hardcore feuds. It's about wrestling, we're not supposed to kiss each other. HEAT HEAT HEAT! I want to feel energized, or wasted, after seeing a match or reading sheets. That's where Bowdren and Scherer have it over Whitehead.

WCW blows so bad I simply forgot about the last Clash. The Whiff brings back Ottman. Except for Candido, SMW is nothing. Cornette hasn't done one good Whiff interview. That gig is all about \$-not helping SMW. Jarrett runs Gilbert off and USWA crowds go in the toilet. After July 9's Casas-Asai bout, their LA gigs are kaput due to \$30 seats and weak cards. I went to Triplemania in Tijuana, and that's about all the AAA I can take. Their TV silences the crowd noise.

Personal highlights lately.....

The LA-EMLL show with the heart attack, Mando Guerrero really shooting, and Piloto Suicida's plancha distance record.

The Dan Farren-Kurt Brown lucha show in a nightclub where I may have been the only paying customer. And laughed myself sick.

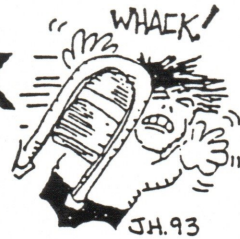
Meeting Gary Albright.

Giving Japanese and Gracie tapes to Ian Hodgkinson, EMLL's "Vampiro Canadiense", and watching him become a great, stiff fighting, star. Konnan is just plain scared to work with him.

Let me know about the Collectors Page-I'm ready!

CHAIRSHOTS MAILBOX

10117 W. OAKLAND PARK BLVD., #341, SUNRISE, FL 33351



Barry,

I was "concerned" after reading your most recent SUCKER PUNCH column. If there is any thing I can do to help, whether it be writing a "guest" column from time to time, sending an occasional letter, etc., please let me know. By the way, the sheet war crap is old stuff, everybody knows Keller is an asshole...let's just leave it at that and not waste any more space on him-he doesn't deserve the publicity (or notoriety!). Also, if my buddy Lemieux can take the time to write letters, tell him to get his "ass in gear" and start writing his column again. I've always enjoyed his work. Thanks for the enjoyable read!

DAVID STEELE
CATASAUQUA, PA.

(Dave, consider this a public invitation to write a guest column for CS anytime you wish. Our buddy Lemieux will return with ARENA RAMBLINGS in issue #26 (due out July 19) with his insight on the big Orlando PPV.)

Barry,

The top five reasons for Richard "The only hardcore in Florida not going to the Bash At The Beach PPV" Stafford not writing a letter to CHAIRSHOTS in the last six months (or is that nine months?). 5) Majority of my time spent with my probation officer due to a breaking and entering charge at the old FCW studios and looking for old 70's FCW footage. 4) My sheet letter writing hour between 5-6 pm is now occupied by my Riki Lake viewing. 3) My own personal policy that if my letters are not published in the Observer then I will not write to another sheet, just like marriage vows, consider this a DIVORICE! It's been two years since my last letter was published in WON, so consider me yours. 2) I've been busy working as a ghostwriter on Jody Hamilton's favorite recipes. It should come as no surprise that this book will rival War And Peace in length. AND, the number one reason Rich hasn't written a letter to CS....1) I have spent all my free time changing your address on my index cards. How about staying put for a fucking month, buddy!

RICHARD STAFFORD
JACKSONVILLE, FL

Barry,

It's a shame that the Knicks lost game 7 to the Rockets (ED NOTE: FUCK YOU, Bobby!). Maybe they'll get a shot next year (or considering the younger legs in Orlando, Charlotte, Atlanta, and Indiana, maybe not). I loved the cover of #24. It captured the essence of the man we know as Dr. Death, but why no dialogue? Is it because Steve Williams said that he would beat the shit

out of the person who messed with his portrait (suitable for framing)? Count me among the fans scared by the Sheik at the recent Michigan Indy. As a write up in the Torch by fan Adam Kaine put it.. "It's funny to see how scared the fans are of this 69 year old man". The first live wrestling match I saw was in 1977 and consisted of The Sheik autographing Andre The Giant's forehead with a pencil. That image has stayed with me through the years. So when this 69 year old man stood about two feet in front of me, bloody with a screwdriver in his hand and a crazed expression on his face, I reverted back to a six year old. Never mind that I'm twice the sheik's size, played college football, dabbled in Judo, and have benched over 400 lbs. I suspended my disbelief and got the hell outta his way. But, I'm not ashamed. That's what wrestling is all about.

ROBERT SOLARI II
DETROIT, MI

(Twice the size of The Sheik? Sorry about that profanity I lobbed your way, Mr Solari!)

Barry,

Liger and Hase do jobs. Kawada and Taue look at the lights. CLEAN, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RING. a la Savage recently. Unfortunately, several "stars" refuse to do jobs or want to write the scenario. The excuse? I'll lose my heat, credibility, future value, etc. etc. ad nauseum. Let's get this straight. This is BULLSHIT to the ninth degree. Heat is partly charisma, but winning records are works or are the workers deluded into thinking themselves "shooters"? All may now take one step forward and meet Dr. Death. Imagine the immediate pop and future uncertainty if Lex, Sting, Bret Hart, Vader or Sabu got pinned clean. What would audience reaction be if Romeo And Juliet refused to "die" at the end of the ballet?

DR. RICHARD SIEGEL
BETHPAGE, NY

Dear Barry,

Thanks so much for sending me some recent issues of CS. Today's wrestling stinks, but I still enjoy reading the sheets on and off. I'll be attending the "Hall Of Fame" night in Knoxville on Aug. 8. I'm looking forward to seeing many of the veteran greats. So, JD McKay is still around? I used to be a semi regular contributor to his Ringside Reflector newsletter. I still contribute once in a while to the sheets, but it's almost always one of the nostalgia bulletins. I really love the nostalgia stuff (60's-70's). Take care and I'm looking forward to your next issue.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND, TENN

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BUMPS & GRINDS

by Mike Terry

Tony Schiavone: "Whatcha gonna do when Hulkamania runs wild on you?"

Jesse Ventura: "Throw up."

Amen, Jesse. And let's leave it at that.

The WWF is once again on the cutting edge in terms of the production values of their shows. The new Superstars open is excellent as are the "New Generation" spots! Have you seen the one where Bret Hart is backstage on his way to the ring and hands over his sunglasses to a young admirer? Great stuff, but the people who came up with the much-admired Mean Joe Greene-Coca Cola spot ought to sue for plagiarism.

Quotes of the month:

--**Art Donovan** on IRS: "Is this guy one of the wrestlers?"

--**Jesse Ventura:** "You look at Sullivan & Cactus Jack, you gotta believe in birth control."on Jimmy Hart: "a walking advertisement for Prozac."

--**Johnny Polo:** "That Captain Lou has gotta have a sixth sense cause something happened to the other five."on Mabel: "He's so stupid he tripped over a cordless phone."

--**Vince McMahon** on Jimmy Delray: "Just about the most repulsive human being I've ever seen in my life."

--**a Mania co-host contestant** on Jeff Jarrett: "When you're in the ring doin' your strut, lay the darn egg and get it over with."

Lawlerpaloozers: on Yokozuna: "His calves are so big they moo."

to Roddy Piper: "At least all your movies had happy endings because everybody was glad when they were over."

on Razor Ramon: "He thinks he's the big cheese, but the truth is he just smells like it." And: "He thinks he's James Dean, but he's really a rebel without a clue."

on Sparky Plugg: "This guy's so southern he's related to himself."

on Alundra Blayze: "She's so ugly when she walks into a room, the mice jump on chairs."

Brainstorms: Heenan on Cactus Jack: "He looks to me like he needs to be vacuumed."

Why doesn't WCW acknowledge Sting's participation in "Thunder in Paradise?" I would think the company would jump on national exposure such as this and play it up with a slick video piece. Don't tell me they don't want the audience to see Sting as a bad guy. Get real.

Is Jim Cornette on his way out of the WWF? Seems the burial has begun. Not only are they barely using his talents on TV, but check the latest WWF Magazine in which they suggest there's trouble between Cornette, Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji and that Cornette has done nothing for them but take their money. The magazine also claims Cornette is a hindrance to the career of the Heavenly Bodies. If it's true there's a purpose for everything in the WWF, what gives? Of course, if there were a purpose for everything in the WWF, how does one explain Art Donovan?

I've gotten a kick out of Donovan for years on the Letterman show. It was a good idea to have him make an appearance on King of the Ring but from that point, logic went down the toilet. Somebody should have ascertained beforehand that he didn't know the wrestlers and that it might not be too conducive to a smooth performance. The producers should have limited his contribution. They could have fed him some safe lines through his ear piece or provided him with some basic facts on the performers so he could appear semi-literate. I understand how frustrating it must have been for Monsoon and Savage, but I absolutely cannot condone Monsoon's shabby treatment of Donovan. It was immature and unprofessional. And who the hell was producing this thing? Weren't they listening? Why didn't Art get the hook? Some heads should roll over this.

Whatever happened to the Mighty Wilbur?.....doesn't Owen Hart look like the Artful Dodger with the crown?.....do people who boo IRS feel it's OK to cheat on their taxes?.....from the look of Sensuous Sherri's hair, she still hasn't completed cosmetology school.....good to see Jim Ross back on Superstars as himself, not Gabby Hayes.....will the situation between Diesel and Neidhart be the impetus to Diesel's babyface turn?.....and how has WCW so far managed to avoid employing the perpetually-annoying, hopelessly-untalented Brutus Beefcake?

That's a wrap, kids. Say your prayers, eat your vitamins, and enjoy the hulk--er, heck--out of the rest of the summer.

Sucker Punch

BY BARRY ROSE



The wrestling world has unfortunately been hit with another death, and while this passing may not have the ramifications of an Andre The Giant, its tragic none the less. Joey Marella, WWF referee and son of Gino (Gorilla Monsoon) Marella, apparently fell asleep at the wheel while driving the Jersey Turnpike at 3 am on July 4. He was returning from the tapings in Ocean City, Maryland and crashed into a guardrail. Marella, 30 years old, wasn't wearing a seatbelt and appeared to have died instantaneously. Harvey (Downtown Bruno Lauer) Whippleman was also a passenger in the vehicle, but escaped with only minor injuries. The funeral will be held in New Jersey on July 8. Condolences to his entire family...In other news, Jake Roberts appears to have reverted to his old ways. "The Snake" missed a handfull of Smoky Mountain dates over the Fourth Of July weekend. A decision of whether to strip him of the SMW strap was expected to come at the tv tapings on July 5, and rumor has it that those in charge will take the belt back. With the loss of Roberts, the talent pool in Smoky is dangerously low...Got the first issue of Dr. Mike Lano's **WRestling WReality** newsletter (12 pages, \$1.75), and what an impressive debut it was. Graphics that rival the Torch's, articles by those in the business like Lou Thesz, Ron Skoler and that lucious sex goddess, Magnificent Mimi Lessos, and Mike's no holds barred approach to journalism make this something for every hardcore to check out. Contact the Doc at 450 Sutter St., Suite 1643, San Francisco, CA 94108. ...Just got the SummerSlam main events and it looks to Bret V Owen in a cage, and Diesel V Luger for the IC strap. They'd better have a hell of an undercard if they expect to draw any numbers...also heard that a new was formed with the big clumsy ox himself, Typhoon, joining forces with an equally as big no talent, Mabel. If this isn't one of the worst times, talent wise, for the WWF, than I don't know what is...Guess you could name Ron Simmons and Barry Windham "The Invisible men". Are these guys still with the company? Do they know? Does anyone know? Simmons still has the potential to get over if pushed properly, but Windham's best days are behind him...I won't be able to attend the big Orlando PPV due to personal (Bowdren spills the beans on that in his column) and professional (start a new job on July 18) reasons, but will be eagerly awaiting the July 31 Miami Beach house show featuring Terry Funk. Funk will be returning to the building where he won the NWA world title in 1975, and where I, a mere 12 year old punk, saw my first world title change. For those of you that have become wrestling fans since the early eighties, when a title used to change it really used to mean something. Now, with the added frequency of title changes, most fans are too numbed to the whole process, and could really care less. Ah, the good old days...If ever a show was a one match deal, the recent Clash was an excellent example of that. The Cactus-Sully V Nastys fell way below expectations (no way Turner and Co. was gonna allow that kind of violence on America's number one family channel), and with no Vader, Anderson, or Steamboat on the card the best match rested firmly in the grasp of The Nature Boy. Sherri looked excellent, but Hogan looked pathetic. If that was any indication of the Up-coming Hogan-Flair program, I'll start watching my old videotapes now. And what about Jimmy Hart cheering on Hogan to slap Sherri during the week that Nicole Simpson's 911 calls about domestic violence were released? Bad timing one more time from the folks at WCW...Pro Wrestling Sushi lives!! The whole Mullins clan has returned in full force with the latest issue featuring the hysterical, behind the scenes brawl at the Clash behind Ring Announcers Michael buffer and Gary Michael Cappetta. More than just a comedy sheet (and only a buck fifty an issue), **Sushi** also talks about all the latest happenings and lots more. Next issue for Jeff is due out after the 7/17 Bash. Contact jeff Mullins at PO Box 36189, San Jose, CA 95158 (and tell 'im **CHAIRSHOTS** sent ya!)...and before I wrap things up this issue, let me give a big thank you to all of you CSers who responded after my column in last issue. The mailbox was pretty full this month, and with any luck, it will be next month, too!! The Trading Post idea hasn't gotten off of the ground as of yet, but we're still encouraging all of you to write in any plug anything you wish. Also, as a new feature, we'll be taking a look back at Wrestling Sheets from the past including Tramel's RIOT, JD McKay's REFLECTOR, as well as sheets from the 70's and 80's. Should be real interesting reading. CS will return following the Bash in Orlando with special reports on the entire weekend from Jeff Bowdren, Ron Lemieux, a returning Jimmy Berkley, and special artwork on the Bash by John Hitchcock. This issue should really be something special. See ya in two!!

HARDCORE

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(YES THAT DAVE FLAHERTY...)



AND DAVE HOW ABOUT SETTING UP WITH MIKE GUNTER FROM MONS VENUS? REMEMBER?

JOHN HIRKOCK 94 SPECIAL #1